IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

      Alejandro Wiechers

Serial No.: 10/635,460

Filed: August 7, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: Rodriguez, Lennin

Docket No. 200207419-1

For: **Managing Workflow In A Commercial Printing Environment With Pre-Submittal High Performance Preflight**

<u>APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37</u>

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

     This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed May 2, 2008, responding to the Final Office Action mailed December 21, 2007.

     It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 3, 17, and 29 have been canceled leaving claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-28 remaining. Each of those claims stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-28 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

In an after-final Response filed February 21, 2008, Applicant amended claims 15, 16, and 18-28. Those claim amendments have been entered. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of Applicant's claims.

V. **Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description ("specification") and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location. The method comprises creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 8, paragraph 0024; page 11-12, paragraphs 0039-0041; Figure 1, item 118. The method of claim 1 further comprises an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the designer location, said automated preflight check comprising said automated preflight module automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying any errors. *Applicant's specification*, pages 8-9, paragraphs 0025-27; Figure 1, item 106. The method of claim 1 further comprises said automated preflight module further automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, paragraph 0032. The method of

claim 1 further comprises sending said press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, paragraph 0042; Figure 1, item 120. The method of claim 1 further comprises performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, pages 16-18, paragraphs 0060-0069; Figure 1, items 138-144.

Independent claim 15 describes a computer-readable medium that stores a program for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing. The program product comprises machine-readable program code that causes a machine to perform the step of creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 8, paragraph 0024; page 11-12, paragraphs 0039-0041; Figure 1, item 118. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of causing an automated preflight module to perform an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the designer location, said automated preflight check comprising said automated preflight module automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying

4

any errors. *Applicant's specification*, pages 8-9, paragraphs 0025-27; Figure 1, item 106. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of said automated preflight module further automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, paragraph 0032. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of sending said press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, paragraph 0042; Figure 1, item 120. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, pages 16-18, paragraphs 0060-0069; Figure 1, items 138-144.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following grounds of rejection are to be reviewed on appeal:

1.   Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Roztocil, et al.* ("Roztocil," U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0044868) in view of *Schorr, et al.* ("Schorr," U.S. Pat. No. 6,608,697).

2.   Claims 4, 9, 18, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Crandall, et al.* ("Crandall," U.S. Pat. No. 5,963,641).

3. Claims 7 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr,* and further in view of *Gorp, et al.* ("Gorp," U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0252319).

4. Claims 8 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and Schorr, and further in view of *Tibbs, et al.* ("Tibbs," U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0010689).

5. Claims 10 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Smith* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,441,920).

6. Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Stewart, et al.* ("Stewart," U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964).

VII. **Arguments**

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejections of those claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden 35 U.S.C. § 103 to establish obviousness by showing objective teachings in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The key to supporting an allegation of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is the clear articulation of the reasons why the Examiner believes that claimed invention would have been obvious. *See* MPEP § 2141. As stated by the Supreme Court, "[r]ejections on obviousness cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." *KSR v. Teleflex*, 550 U.S. at ___, 82 USPQ2d at 1396 (quoting *In re Kahn,* 441 F.3d 977, 988, 78 USPQ2d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006)) .

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established that Applicant's claims are obvious in view of the prior art. Applicant discusses those claims in the following.

A.   Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, and 26

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Roztocil, et al.* ("Roztocil," U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0044868) in view of *Schorr, et al.* ("Schorr," U.S. Pat. No. 6,608,697).   Applicant respectfully traverses.

1.   The Roztocil Reference

Roztocil discloses a production work flow 100 of a "typically production print shop." *Roztocil*, paragraph 0020.   The work flow 100 comprises various stages, including job origination 102, job submission 104, job preparation 106, print production 108, and final fulfillment 110.   *Roztocil*, Figure 1.

As shown in Figure 1, the print shop includes a computer network 112 that includes computer work stations 114, 116, servers 118, 120, and output devices 122.   *Roztocil*, paragraph 0021.   A customer can submit a job during job origination 102 by either physically delivering to the print shop one or more documents in hard copy or electronic form or by transmitting the one or more documents to the print shop via the Internet. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0022.   After that point, all aspects of the production work flow 100 are performed at the print shop using its network 112.   *See Roztocil*, paragraphs 0023-0033.

Included in the production work flow 100 performed at the print shop is what Roztocil calls "user functionality workflow 200."   *Roztocil*, paragraph 0034.   That workflow 200 includes a preflight stage 204 that is performed using a workflow management software program that executes on a job preparation workstation 116 at the print shop. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0036.   Using that program, operators at the print shop can obtain data

about the various output devices 122 of the print shop, including their availability and capabilities. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0045.

As can be appreciated from the above, with the exception of transmitting documents over the Internet to Roztocil's print shop, no actions of Roztocil's disclosed production work flow are performed at a customer's (e.g., designer's) location.

2. The Schorr Reference

Schorr discloses a preflight system 101 that can be accessed by independent print vendors 117 and print buyers 119 alike. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 1-7; Figure 1. As described by Schorr, the preflight system 101 includes an interface 105 through which the vendors 117 and buyers 119 can access the system over the Internet. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 29-33.

The preflight system 101 comprises various modules 107, 109 that can be downloaded to the buyers 119. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 33-37. One such module is an "inspector module 109A" that scans through designated files of the buyer 119 and then transmits identified "document elements" to an analyzer 111 of the preflight system 101. *Schorr*, column 6, lines 17-22. The analyzer 111, which is *not* downloaded to the buyer 119, compares the documents transmitted by the inspector module 109A and identifies errors in the documents. *Schorr*, column 7, lines 57-67. When an error is found, the analyzer 111 obtains an error message that can be provided to the print vendor 117 who will perform the printing. *Schorr*, column 7, lines 63 to column 8, line 12.

As can be appreciated from the above, Schorr describes a preflight system 101 independent from a customer (e.g., designer) that analyzes documents for errors.

9

Although the preflight system 101 can detect errors, Schorr does not state that the system in any way corrects those errors. Instead, the preflight system 101 merely notifies the print vendor of the errors.

3. Applicant's Claims

Applicant's independent claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the designer location, said automated preflight check comprising said automated preflight module *automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location* and automatically identifying any errors;

said automated preflight module further automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location;

sending said press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider location.

(a)   The Examiner's Reliance on Roztocil

In the final Office Action, the Examiner alleged that Roztocil discloses each of the limitations of claim 1 except for the limitations that pertain to the claimed "automated preflight module". Applicant disagrees at least because Roztocil does not disclose, or suggest, the action of "creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location".

As a first matter regarding the above-noted "creating a press ready file" limitation, Roztocil does not in fact disclose creating a file "at the designer location" that includes a print job and a job ticket. As described above in the discussion of the Roztocil reference, with the exception of transmitting documents to Roztocil's print shop via the Internet, *none* of the actions of Roztocil's disclosed production work flow 100 are performed at a customer's (e.g., designer's) location. Therefore, although a designer may create a print job (e.g., document) at the designer's location, the designer certainly does not create at that location a press ready file, which is explicitly claimed as including both the print job and a "job ticket". Although Roztocil does describe the creation of a "ready for printer file" that includes a print job and a job ticket, Roztocil explicitly states that the ready

for printer file is created during "job preparation 106," which is performed at Roztocil's print shop by one of the print shop operators. *See Roztocil*, paragraphs 0027 and 0028.

With particular regard to the creation of a job ticket, Applicant notes that Roztocil explicitly indicates that the job ticket is prepared at the print shop *after* the print job has been received from the customer:

> Job submission 104 is the receipt of the job by the print shop and the entering of the job into the print shops production system or workflow. Typically the instructions from the customer will be written down on a special form, known as a "ticket" or "job ticket".

Roztocil, paragraph 0023, lines 5. Clearly, if the job ticket is not created until after the print job has been submitted to the print shop, the press ready file that incorporates the job ticket cannot have been previously created at the designer location.

With particular regard to the creation of the press ready file, Applicant notes that Roztocil explicitly states that that file is created at the print shop. As described by Roztocil:

> . . . *a customer may bring in two different documents*, one being the body of a book and the other being the photographs to be inserted at specific pages. . . While the operator could figure out at which pages the images will be inserted and appropriately number the pages of the book and photographs using each individual software package, this is a very complex and time consuming process. It also requires that the operator be trained and familiar with a range of software packages and runs the risk that he will not be familiar with the particular package that the customer used. Therefore, it is more efficient to distill each of the various file formats into a unified format which allows the operator to prepare the job using a single software interface. In the preferred embodiments, all documents, whether provided in

hard copy or electronically, are distilled or converted into a "ready for printer"
or "print ready" file format.

Roztocil, paragraph 0027, lines 1-21 (emphasis added). As can be appreciated from that excerpt, Roztocil explicitly indicates that a customer *brings in documents to the print shop*, and *the operator at the print shop* then compiles the documents into a "unified format" designated by Roztocil as the "ready for printer " file format.

As a second matter regarding the "creating a press ready file" limitation, Applicant notes that Roztocil does not in fact disclose creating *any* file at a designer location "using updated device configuration information" from a print service provider. In short, Roztocil provides no such disclosure. Although Roztocil discusses "workflow management software" having data about the availability and capabilities of the print shop's output devices 122, that software is executed on a job preparation workstation 116 at the print shop, and *not* at a designer location. *See Roztocil*, paragraphs 0036 and 0045.

From the above, it is clear that Roztocil does not in fact disclose, or suggest for that matter, "creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location". The reason why Roztocil does not provide such a disclosure or suggestion is clear: *Roztocil's disclosure focuses on actions performed by a print shop.* Roztocil simply does not contemplate a system or method like Applicant's in which much of the

preparation for printing is performed at the designer's location *before* the print shop even becomes involved.

(b)   The Examiner's Reliance on Schorr

In the final Office Action the Examiner acknowledged that Roztocil does not disclose or suggest an "automated preflight module" that performs at the designer location an "automated preflight check" comprising automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying any errors.   In view of the shortcomings of the Roztocil reference, the Examiner cited the Schorr reference, which is alleged to provide a disclosure of such an automated preflight module. Applicant disagrees.

As a first matter regarding the "automated preflight check" limitation, Applicant notes that Schorr does not in fact disclose automatically reviewing characteristics of a print job and a job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying any errors given that *Schorr is silent as to job tickets*. Although Roztocil generally discloses job tickets, the Examiner has not explained why it would have been obvious to compare a print job with a job ticket to identify errors given the respective disclosures of Roztocil and Schorr. As described above, Schorr's disclosed comparison is between documents and printer profiles. Therefore, there does not appear to be any suggestion from either reference for comparing a print job and a job ticket.

As a second matter, Applicant notes that Schorr does not in fact disclose an automated preflight module performing the claimed automated preflight check "at the designer location". As described above in the discussion of the Schorr reference, Schorr discloses an "analyzer 111" that compares documents with elements in a printer profile. However, that analyzer 111 is part of an independent preflight system 101 and *not* the print buyer 119 (which may be considered to be a "designer" of a print job). Moreover, the analyzer 111 is *not* a module that is transmitted to the print buyer 119. Instead, the analyzer 111 operates on a server separate and independent of the print buyer 119. *See Schorr*, column 3, lines 53-58.

As a third matter, notes that Schorr does not in fact disclose an automated preflight module "automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location". As described above, Schorr's analyzer 111 detects errors and notifies print vendors 117 of the errors. *Nowhere, however, does Schorr state that the analyzer 111 automatically corrects any of those errors.* Regarding the Examiner's citation of the preflight system 101 passing "error free print files" to the print vendor, such a disclosure is not a disclosure of automatically correcting any errors. Instead, Schorr is stating that, if there are no errors, an error-free print file is provided. If there are errors, however, the preflight system 101 *identifies them but does not correct them.* This is made clear in Schorr's Detailed Description (the passage cited by the Examiner was taken from the Summary of the Invention section), which states:

> After the inspector or inspectors 109A have finished scanning
> through a print file, and the analyzer 111 has stored all of the relevant
> error messages in memory, the interface 105 may take several different

courses of action, depending upon the embodiment of the invention. For example, the analyzer 111 may post the list of error messages to a Web page that can be accessed by the print buyer 119. *If there print file contains no errors, then the analyzer 111 may instead simply forward the print file to the print vendor 117 selected by the print buyer*.

Schorr, column 8, lines 6-15 (emphasis added).

(c)   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that Roztocil and Schorr do not in fact render Applicant's independent claim 1 obvious. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependents are allowable. Applicant further submits that independent claim 15 and its dependents are allowable for similar reasons given that claim 15 comprises recitations similar to those described above in relation to claim 1.

B.   Rejection of Claims 4, 9, 18, and 23

Claims 4, 9, 18, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Crandall, et al.* ("Crandall," U.S. Pat. No. 5,963,641). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Crandall does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 9, 18, and 23 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Crandall combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

C.   Rejection of Claims 7 and 21

Claims 7 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr,* and further in view of *Gorp, et al.* ("Gorp," U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0252319). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Crandall does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 21 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Gorp combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

D.   Rejection of Claims 8 and 22

Claims 8 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and Schorr, and further in view of *Tibbs, et al.* ("Tibbs," U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0010689). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Crandall does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 22 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Tibbs combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

E.   Rejection of Claims 10 and 24

Claims 10 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Smith* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,441,920). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Crandall does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 and 24 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Smith combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

F.   Rejection of Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28

Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr*, and further in view of *Stewart, et al.* ("Stewart," U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.
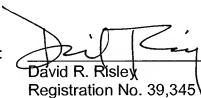
As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Crandall does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Stewart combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

VIII. <u>Conclusion</u>

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

David R. Risley
Registration No. 39,345

<u>**Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)**</u>

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1.   A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the designer location, said automated preflight check comprising said automated preflight module automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying any errors;

said automated preflight module further automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location;

sending said press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider location.

2.	A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at the print service provider location, that said press ready file will be produced at the print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.

3.	(Canceled)

4.	A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein the errors comprise at least one of: missing font, missing image, incorrect image resolution, missing crop marks, incorrect scaling, incorrect rotation, and incorrect color space.

5.	A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein the errors comprise at least one of: paper mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, ink mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, missing imposition instructions, missing imposition proofing file, missing imposition proofing approval, missing remote printing file and missing contract proof approval.

6.	A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein the errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate finishing device attached to selected press at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected finishing device, selected finishing

device incapable of performing required tasks, missing finishing instructions and missing finishing mock-up file.

7.   A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein the errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate packaging device attached to selected press and finishing device at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected packaging device, selected packaging device incapable of performing required tasks and missing packaging instructions.

8.   A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein the errors comprise at least one of: missing shipping instructions, missing list of recipient names and destinations and of final output and invalid automated courier selected.

9.   A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said automated preflight check of said press ready file includes automatic generation of a report at the designer location of the identified errors in said press ready file.

10.   A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes automatic generation of alarms discernable at the designer location corresponding to the identification of errors in said press ready file.

11. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote imposition setup of said press ready file to remotely arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

12. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

13. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

14. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

15.   A computer-readable medium that stores a program for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said press ready file including a print job to be printed at the print service provider location and a job ticket that specifies production devices of the print service provider location to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location

an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the designer location, said automated preflight check comprising said automated preflight module automatically reviewing characteristics of said print job and said job ticket and comparing them to characteristics of the selected production devices of the print service provider location and automatically identifying any errors;

said automated preflight module further automatically correcting errors identified in said print job or said job ticket at the designer location;

sending said press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider location.

16. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at the print service provider location, that said press ready file will be produced at the print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.

17. (Canceled)

18. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the errors comprise at least one of: missing font, missing image, incorrect image resolution, missing crop marks, incorrect scaling, incorrect rotation, and incorrect color space.

19. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the errors comprise at least one of: paper mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, ink mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, missing imposition instructions, missing imposition proofing file, missing imposition proofing approval, missing remote printing file and missing contract proof approval.

20.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate finishing device attached to selected press at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected finishing device, selected finishing device incapable of performing required tasks, missing finishing instructions and missing finishing mock-up file.

21.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate packaging device attached to selected press and finishing device at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected packaging device, selected packaging device incapable of performing required tasks and missing packaging instructions.

22.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the errors comprise at least one of: missing shipping instructions, missing list of recipient names and destinations and of final output and invalid automated courier selected.

23.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes automatic generation of a report at the designer location of the identified errors in said press ready file.

24.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said automated preflight check of said press ready file includes automatic generation of alarms discernable at the designer location corresponding to the identification of errors in said press ready file.

25.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote imposition setup of said press ready file to remotely arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

26.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

27.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

28.   A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

29.   (Canceled)

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.